



NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION®

2020/2021 PRACTISING CERTIFICATE RENEWALS

The period for renewals will commence from 6 April until 7 June 2020. If you renew between 8 June and 30 June 2020, you will be charged a late fee. No renewals will be accepted after 30 June 2020.

- Practising Certificate renewals will be run on the same online system as last year.
- Barristers will be advised of the URL access to the online renewals portal via email once the online renewal system is up and running.
- Your login details (username and password) are the same as that which you used to login in to the system last year and is also the same as those used to access the Member Dashboard on our website; please ensure these are up to date. If you are unsure as to what your login details are, please reset these through the Member Dashboard.
- The online form will be pre-filled with your personal and practice details. Please ensure this information is up to date prior to starting your renewal.

Information regarding the Online system

- Barristers' details are secure.
- The NSW Bar Association will not store your payment details. Payment is secure and PCI compliant.
- You are able to save your renewal, and return back to it before submitting it as finalised. However, once finalised you are unable to do so.
- Barristers will be able to quickly attach relevant documentation as part of their renewals.
- You will receive a PDF copy of your renewal and tax invoice(s) to your nominated email address. This occurs instantly upon submission of your renewal.
- You will receive a PDF copy of your practising certificate only, no hard copies will be provided.

Due date

The standard renewal period for practising certificates expires on **Sunday, 7 June 2020** (Clause 4 of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Regulation 2015*).

By **Sunday, 7 June 2020**, the Bar Association will need to have received:

1. completion of your online practising certificate renewal;
2. confirmation of payment of your renewal; and
3. confirmation from your insurance provider that you have insurance. If you have not secured insurance by 7 June, **do not delay lodging your completed renewal form and payment**. Preliminary processing of your practising certificate can begin whilst you are waiting for confirmation of your insurance. However, *your practising certificate cannot be issued until proof of professional indemnity insurance coverage has been received.*

Your practising certificate cannot be renewed until the Association receives all of the above documents and payment has been cleared.

It is an offence for you to practise (including doing chamber work), or to hold yourself out as a barrister, if you do not hold a current practising certificate.

Late fee

A late fee of \$30 or 10% of the relevant practising certificate fee, whichever is the higher, applies where the practising certificate renewal form and/or fee is submitted online after 7 June 2020 and before 1 July 2020.

Late fees will only be waived in the **most exceptional cases**. Submitting a late renewal online due to an oversight or absence from chambers during the renewal period is not sufficient cause for fee waiver.

Renewals not received and/or received but incomplete after 30 June 2020

After 30 June you cannot lodge an application for renewal. If you have not applied to renew your practising certificate on or before 30 June, you will be required to complete an application for a practising certificate and provide a statutory declaration confirming you did not practise between 1 July and the date of application for your practising certificate before any application can be processed. An additional fee of \$30 or 15% of the relevant practising certificate fee, whichever is the higher, applies to all applications received after 30 June where an application to renew should have been received on or before 30 June.

Please also be aware that if you practised after 1 July 2020 without a practising certificate, any fees charged will need to be repaid.

If you did apply to renew on or before 30 June, **but did not have professional indemnity insurance approved on or before 30 June and your renewal application is refused** it will be necessary for you to complete and lodge an application for a practising certificate, pay the additional late fee, and provide a statutory declaration as outlined above.

Information from Professional Conduct

- Read each of the professional conduct fitness questions carefully.
- In the Parts of the renewal relating to *fitness, conduct and disclosures* all the relevant legislation will be hyperlinked. Please ensure you *review the legislation* and understand your obligations under the legislation.
- If you have any questions with regards to your renewal, contact Professional Conduct via email on pcd@nswbar.asn.au with subject "Online Renewals".
- If you have received fees in advance in the relevant period, please ensure you have submitted your external examination report by 7 June 2020.